the House will agree that a headlong, impetuous career must be checked. Accordingly, in this budget Government have provided only just sufficient funds as will enable the department to carry on for the next year, and nothing substantial is provided for further development." ..... Such is the position in Travancore.

The problem of our Government too is just the same. 'Education' is undoubtedly a primary obligation of Government, and we have to discharge that duty to the people at whatever cost. In 1099 the cost of education came to Rs. 9.89 lakhs only; in 1100 it rose to Rs. 11.17 lakhs; in 1101 it came to Rs. 11.61 lakhs; the revised estimate for 1102 is fixed at Rs. 12.47 lakhs and the allotment for the coming year at Rs. 13.20 lakhs. There has thus been a rise in expenditure of nearly 3½ lakhs of rupees even during the last three years. This would clearly show that the Government have not so far stinted any money for the improvement and development of this department so closely connected with the material well-being and progress of the subjects of the State, and that in spite of the limitations placed on their finances.

The Special Finance Committee is examining the whole question, and we await with interest their suggestions for retrenchment, etc., in this department.

The variations having been explained in the Memorandum, I do not wish to detain the House by further elaboration.

Medical Department.—Turning next to the Medical Department, I may state at the very outset that the two distinguishing features of the next year's budget estimates of this department are the provision for the entertainment of additional nursing staff and the increased provision under 'Cost of medicines'. To those, if any, who may be inclined to ask why the matter of appointing additional nursing staff could not wait for the recommendations of the Special Finance Committee I have only to say that the matter has been pending with the Government for long, and that, dealing as the department does, with human lives which should not be trifled with, Government considered that it would but be a matter of justice to the bed-ridden patients in the hospitals that additional staff should be provided for with as little delay as possible. I think that such or similar sentiments have also been expressed by Members on the very floor of this House. The staff is, however, provided for only temporarily pending the report of the Special Finance Committee. I fully hope and confidently believe that this explanation will quite satisfy the House.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The next item that may perhaps require a word of explanation is the increased provision under 'Cost of medicines'. As explained in the Memorandum, out of the provision of Rs. 95,000 under this head, a sum of Rs. 75,000 is towards the purchase of medicines for the current year and the balance of Rs. 20,000 is for part payment of the liabilities of the previous years, which approximately come to Rs. 45,000. I hope that the House will unanimously agree with me that it will be far better to start afresh with a clean slate after wiping off the liabilities, so that the medicines for one year may in future, be purchased with the allotment for that year. If it is asked why then only a part payment is provided for next year, I may state for the information of the House that, in the opinion of the Government, it seems it would be better to spread the payment of the liability over two years so that the budget may be balanced in a way without having the expenditure swelled in any one particular year.

An increased provision of Rs. 75,000 is made under 'Cost of medicines' as against the revised estimate of Rs. 68,000, so that there may not be any paucity of supply. A provision of Rs. 4,200 has also been made for 7 rural dispensaries according to the new scheme. The provision of Rs. 30,000 under 'Dietary charges' repeats the revised estimate, and it is hoped it will be sufficient. Besides, we have made liberal provisions in the Public Works budget for various works relating to this department. With the increased provision for medicines, nursing staff, rural dispensaries and additional accommodation and comfort there can be no room for any criticism that the Government have been unmindful of the requirements of the department which looks to the needs of the suffering population.

Sanitation and Conservancy.—Another department that looks after the public health is 'Sanitation Department' and it has been supplied with the usual funds. A provision of Rs. 12,000 has been made for sanitary works in towns distributed equally among Kunnamkulam, Trichur, Chittur-Tattamangallam, Mattancheri, Ernakulam and Trippunittura. Consequent on the transfer of Water Supply works to the Panchayat Department, the post of a Draftsman in the department was abolished in the course of the year. The usual provision of Rs. 3,000 is made towards contribution to the Pulaya Colony which is proposed to be administered in future by the Protector of the Depressed Classes. It is the firm conviction of the Government that the Municipalities, having passed the infant stage when active help and guidance of the Government were necessary, should be able to stand on their own legs. Hence the decreased provision

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly